

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 AGRE-00 IGA-02
DEAE-00 INR-07 PM-04 INRE-00 SS-15 /046 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:MLCHESHES:AG
APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST
ARA/AND/C:DCOX (DRAFT)
S/NM:TCOX
AID/SER/INC:HGROOM (SUBS)
-----014440 302229Z /75
O 302142Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, CO, MX

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT LOPEZ FOR TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE ON MARIJUANA ERADICATION IN LA GUAJIRA

1. THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS RECEIVED A
CABLE DIRECTLY FROM PRESIDENT LOPEZ. CABLE READS:

QUOTE: TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT LOPEZ TO THE COLOMBIAN
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DATED JUNE 28, 1977 (RECEIVED JUNE 29,
1977).

AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE IN LA GUAJIRA
OF 3,000 HECTARES OF MARIJUANA WHICH WE MUST DESTROY. I
ASK, PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL UPON WHOM WE
AGREED WITH BOURNE, THAT YOU REQUEST ASSISTANCE WITH REGARD
TO THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND RAPID PROCEDURES WHICH WE COULD
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USE. IN TWENTY DAYS WE HAVE DESTROYED 70 HECTARES AT A
VERY HIGH COST, AND WE ARE WORRIED THAT ANY FAILURE WOULD
DEMONSTRATE THE INCAPACITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT
AGAINST THE MAFIAS. END QUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS ARRANGED FOR TWO MEMBERS OF NARCOTICS
ASSISTANCE UNIT IN MEXICO FAMILIAR WITH ERADICATION CAMPAIGN,

CESAR BERNAL AND JOHN FORD TO FLY TO BOGOTA. WE HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED TO COLOMBIAN EMBASSY THAT GOC CONTACT MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REQUEST SERVICE OF AGRONOMIC ENGINEER EXPERT IN MARIJUANA ERADICATION. HAVE ALSO ASKED COLOMBIAN EMBASSY TO HAVE GOC CONTACT JOE LEE RE ARRANGEMENTS. HAVE INFORMED BERNAL/FORD THAT LEE WILL BE THEIR CONTACT AND CONTROL OFFICER. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO AVIATION ADVISOR BEALL BE INCLUDED AS MEMBER OF THEIR TEAM.

3. DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THIS MISSION WILL PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH GOC TOWARD ERADICATION OF OPIUM CULTIVATION. THEREFORE SUGGEST BERNAL/FORD BE BRIEFED UPON ARRIVAL.

4. AS EXPLAINED IN CHESHES-LEE TELECON, CONSIDER IT IMPERATIVE THAT BERNAL/FORD BE PUT IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH TOP ECHELON OF GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION HANDLING ERADICATION -- PRESUMABLY MINISTER OF JUSTICE. THEIR MISSION IS LIMITED TO MAXIMUM OF 10 DAYS TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND PROVIDE INITIAL ADVISE. CONSTRAINTS OF MEXICAN PROGRAM PRECLUDE LONGER AVAILABILITY. IF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED WE WILL HAVE TO EXPLORE OTHER AVENUES.

5. FOR MEXICO CITY: CONFIRMING TELECON EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT FOR A REPORT ON THE BEST METHODS OF DESTRUCTION OF MARIJUANA IN THE GUAJIRA
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AREA OF COLOMBIA WITH AVIATION ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL CHARGE UP TO DOLLARS 4,000 TO APPROPRIATION 19-1171022-1, ALLOTMENT 2071, OBLIGATION 710034.

6. IF MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AGREES TO SUPPLY THE EXPERT MENTIONED IN PARA 2, EMBASSY MAY ISSUE INVITATIONAL TRAVEL ORDERS CHARGING SAME APPROPRIATION AND ALLOTMENT, OBLIGATION NUMBER 710035 FOR ROUND TRIP AIRFARE AND PER DIEM.

7. FOR BOGOTA: PLEASE CABLE IMMEDIATELY TO DEPARTMENT AND MEXICO AS SOON AS YOU KNOW GOC IS READY TO RECEIVE OUR ADVISERS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: DG ALTERED
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ISecure: 1
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